

PI:ELACHE

www.pixelache.ac | andrew@pixelache.ac

Trans-disciplinary platform for emerging art, design, research & activism
in Helsinki (Finland) since 2002, active in international networks from 2003..

Trashlab Select Slides (12.2016)

compiled by Andrew Gryf Paterson

More background at <http://pixelache.ac/projects/trashab>

FB: <http://facebook.com/groups/trashlab>



Original **PikseliÄhky** event
in Helsinki, 2002

Groups of
Old demoscene friends,
AV artists & designers, Dotcom
Boomers, tinkerers & hackers.
etc.

Came & shared their
Prototypes and/or their gear..

First event budget: **200€**

Quiz fact:

The only remaining member from 1st event is our photo-documentor Antti Ahonen (!)



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- The name '**Pikseliähky**' was originally found in a Finnish article that predicted new words which we would need in the future.
- **Pikseliähky (translated into English as 'Pixelache')** was supposed to describe the feeling that results from an **overdose or excess of digital media content**.
- This overdose can happen easily **if content is too monotonous** – which is the case if standards, formats, tools and design principles converge to a narrow set of options.
- Later interpretations (with English version of word) focused more on the '**ache**' of digital influence in everyday life, an '**ache**' **to re-engage with non-digital interfaces and systems**.
- Pixelache seeks **to challenge mainstream standards and conventions**, not only related to media and technology, but of contemporary society in general

Dynamic tagline for site *pixelache*

Enter replacement for "Festival"

Festival, Raft, Space, Wasteland, Church, Sanctuary, Syndicate, System, Theatre, Stage, Library, Circus, Fleamarket, Clubhouse, Treehouse, Greenhouse, Gym, Escalator, Lift, Elevator, Machine, Gathering, Corner, Project, Home, Nest, Artefact, Archive, Bank, Capital, Fund, School, Mashup, Fragments, Remains, Ruins, Tired, Exhausted, Stream





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- Organised by non-profit cultural association Piknik Frequency ry (**32 members + network**)
- Almost ½ **members born outside FI** (Very *Multi-culti* compared to other Finnish art assoc.)
- **Members (18.11.2016):** Antti Ahonen, Nathalie Aubret, Samir Bhowmik, John W. Fail, Ilpo Heikkinen, Ville Hyvönen, Jon Irigoyen, Owen Kelly, Mari Keski-Korsu, Päivi Raivio, Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen, Mikko Laajola, Albert Laine, Mikko Lipiäinen, Wojtek Mejor, Sara Milazzo, Steve Maher, Mia Mäkelä, Egle Oddo, Andrew Gryf Paterson, Jana Pejoska, Ulla Taipale, Agnieszka Pokrywka, Petri Ruikka, Juan Duarte Regino, Mariana Salgado, Aura Seikkula, Irina Špičaka, Tuomo Tammenpää, Justin Tyler Tate, Ernest Truely, Jenni Valorinta.
- **Since 2011, 1 full-time & 1 part-time 'staff in office' all year, +project/festival 'staff'**
- **Artistic director:** Juha Huuskonen 2003-2011; no-artistic-director 2012-2014
- **Coordinators:** Nathalie Aubret 2012-2014; Petri Ruikka 2015-2016
- **2015 Festival 2015 co-directors:** Agnieszka Pokrywka & John W. Fail
- **2016 Festival 2016 co-directors:** Mari Keski-Korsu & Petri Ruikka
- **Main festival producers:** Ossi Luoto 2003-2005; Nathalie Aubret 2006-2011; Kati Hurme 2012; Ulla Jaakkola 2013; Petri Ruikka 2014
- **'Open Sourcing Festivals' project coordinator** 2012-2014: Nathalie Aubret
- **'Pixelversity' education coordinator & facilitator** 2011-2014: Andrew Gryf Paterson
- **Official Photographer:** Antti Ahonen 2002-2016
- **Board chairperson:** Petri Lievonen 2003-2005; Ville Hyvönen 2006-2014; Mari Keski-Korsu 2015; Mikko Laajola 2016-2017.

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- **Annual festival in Helsinki starting in 2002**
- 1 x Aula space Lasipalatsi, 8 x **Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art theatre, seminar**
- **Since 2011, Nomadic use of venues:** Suomenlinna, Arbis Swedish Adult Education Centre, Suvilahti Cultural complex → Naissaari (EE)..
- **Festival 2014: The Commons** on a suburban nature island Vartiola in East Helsinki.
- **Festival 2015: 'Living Spaces':** decentralised in private & outdoor Eastern/Central Helsinki.
- **Festival 2016 'Interfaces for Empathy':** focused at Lapinlahti former mental health hospital.
- **Invited** productions in bio/art-science, alt.econ.cult & experimental art-design-technology
- **Outreach & educational programme** 2010-2014 (Pixeliversity: diversification, regional+)
- **Collaborative member production** projects & residencies and other activities
- **Promoting Open knowledge practices** in the cultural scene (eg. F.L.O.S.S. of the Year)
- **Finnish National Art Prize** in 2012 (first media art organisation as receivers)
- Emergent **need to share and present prototypes, hacks, cultural demos**
- Festival has been **annual priority** for Finnish & International scene(s), 2003-
- Later **maintaining local and regional community** took priority 2011-2014
- New priorities/**relevance in post-media & mainstream digital cultural environment** 2012-
- Experimenting with organisational models, collaborative curating, 2015-

FACING NORTH H T U O S FACING

Pixelache Festival 2013: 'Facing North Facing South' (16-19.5.2013), Helsinki & Tallinn

“Pixelache festival 2013 is entitled ‘Facing North – Facing South’ and is organized as a dual-city event, both in Helsinki and Tallinn during 16-19 May 2013. If every North as its South and every South its North, this is an invitation to alternately face North and South from multiple points of views..

From a regional point of view, organizing part of the festival in Tallinn poses the question of what it means to bring these cultural actions across the water. Indeed, not only geographically, but also economically, Tallinn is still in the South of Helsinki.”

- **Coordinated by** Pixelache members **Nathalie Aubret, Andrew Gryf Paterson, Ville Hyvönen**
- **Guest curatorship of exhibition & seminar in Helsinki by Bricolabs Network**

<http://www.pixelache.ac/festivals/festival-2013>



Pixelache Festival 2016: 'Interfaces for Empathy' (22-25.9.)

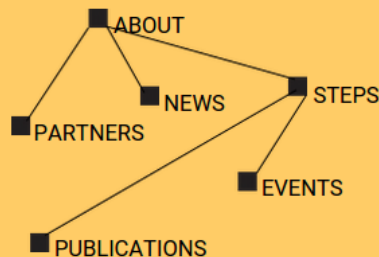
“Could empathy be a key to reconnect us with our ecosystem and ourselves? Pixelache Festival 2016 - 'Interfaces for Empathy' explores the promise of this possible societal shift through macro-level direct experiences the perspective of interconnectedness of all life... This year Pixelache Festival's main venue is the former Lapinlahti hospital area, with Lapinlahden Lähde as a partner organisation. Other festival venues are Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, MUU Gallery & Helsinki City Winter Garden.”

- **Co-directed by** Pixelache members **Mari Keski-Korsu & Petri Ruikka**

The programing has been supported by Pixelache members and an advisory group consisting of artists **Laura Beloff** and **Egle Oddo** and researchers/cognitive scientists **Katri Saarikivi** and **Valtteri Wikström**.

<http://festival.pixelache.ac>

open → sourcing festivals



SEARCH



OPEN SOURCE DIY FESTIVAL MAKING KIT

24 August 2015

The main outcomes of the Open Sourcing Festivals project are the co-production by the partners of the Do It Anyway festival 2015 in Sheffield (UK),...



DO IT ANYWAY FESTIVAL 2015, FEEDBACK & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

16 August 2015

In the context of Open Sourcing Festivals, our UK partner Access Space in cooperation with its partners, organised Do It Anyway 2015 (DIA), their first...



SHARING DO IT ANYWAY 2015 BUDGET

15 August 2015

After sharing our original EU Grundtvig-funding application (see post from 02.03.2015) and Camp Pixelache 2014 budget (see post from 20.04.2015), we...

Open Sourcing Festivals and Open Learning Steps [EU Grundtvig supported] 2013-2015,

- **Led by Nathalie Aubret** from Pixelache (Helsinki, FI), in cooperation with **Piksel** (Bergen, NO), **Mal au Pixel** (Paris, FR), **Pikslaverk** (Reykjavik, IS), and new network member **Access Space** (Sheffield, EN).
- <http://opensourcingfestivals.eu>



DIWO (Do-It-With-Others)

DIWO!

CAMP
PIELACHE 2012

GRID
12.00-20.00

	TUHLASALI	ROOM 24	ROOM 22	ROOM 23	
12.00 - 13.00	PAUL GARDNER	-	-	-	-
13.00 - 14.00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	-
14.00 - 15.00	-	-	-	-	-
15.00 - 16.00	DIWO	-	-	-	-
16.00 - 17.00	DIWO	-	-	-	-
17.00 - 18.00	DIWO	-	-	-	-
18.00 - 19.00	DIWO	-	-	-	-



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Since 2008-2009 onwards, member interests in trans-disciplinary topics..

- **Ecological** issues (art+science+ecology, bioarts, water), Nuclear politics, Waste/Trashlab
- **New+traditional cultural heritage** (e.g. fermentation, Res Agri. plant-knowledge & foraging)
- **Renewable energy** (solar, bio-)
- **Alternative Economics** (Voluntary cooperation–*Talkoot* in Finnish–Crowd-funding , Commons)

Summary of Approaches

- Hacker-culture, "creative misuse of technology" (2002-)
- Grassroots, subcultural & network cultures
- Open-source Culture (software, hardware, organisation), but also Bricolage & Pragmatism
- 'Do-It-Yourself' (D.I.Y.) towards 'Do-It-With-Others' (D.I.W.O.), participatory arts
- Emergent practices and aesthetics
- Trans- /Un- disciplinarity in practice
- Commons & Sustainability issues









Trashlab 2012 -ongoing: 'A star is born..'

"Trashlab explores **experimental art-design-technology practice between hacker and maker cultures**, in the context of re/up-cycling and the increased availability of new fabrication tools.

Trashlab's objective is to build up a community of people (artists, designers, hackers, makers, re/up-cyclers, activists) who are **concerned with material and electronic waste in contemporary society**, and tackle this problem with **creative and tangential approaches**.

We follow the aim to encourage a **peer-based learning environment** related to hacking electronics, repair practices, appropriate technology for renewable energy production/usage, digital fabrication, reusing and re/up-cycling materials.

<http://www.pixelache.ac/projects/trashlab> | <http://www.facebook.com/groups/trashlab>

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Trashlab 2012 - 'A star is born..'

- Proposed by Pixelache member **Antti Ahonen** in 2011, based on collaborations with Koelse.org (art-circuit-bender collective).. Ville Hyvönen's Pixelache 2010 Festival video: <https://vimeo.com/10443359>
- Trashlab initiated and facilitated by **Andrew Gryf Paterson** as part of '**Pixelversity**' informal education programme of Pixelache Helsinki.
- Early participants / conversants: **Sara Milazzo, Mikko Laajola, Karthik Archakeya, Cindy Khotala, Tommi Flinck, Samir Bhowmik, Justin Tyler Tate, Ernest Truely, Päivi Raivio, Harri Vähänissi, Olli Suorlahti, Jan Pankovets, Jukka Hautamäki..**
- Aalto Media Factory supported the '**Talking Trash(lab)**' monthly lecture series in 2012: **Antti Ahonen** (Pixelache/Koelse.org), **Diana Wildshult & Harmen Zijp** (Amersfoort Fablab NL), **Ernest Truely** (Polymer Culture Factory EE), **Jennifer Gabrys** (London), **Peter Kuria Githinji** (Helsinki), **James Wallbank** (Access Space UK), **Maria Törn** (Aalto Uni. ENG Waste Management), **Reet Aus** (Reet Aus Fashion EE), **Cindy Kohtala** (Aalto Uni. ARTS Design), **Karthik Acharya & Samir Bhowmik** (Aalto Uni. ARTS Design, Media).
- **Cindy Kohtala** begins her reflective research on the community for her Doctor of Arts thesis <https://people.aalto.fi/new/cindy.kohtala>
- Upcycling workshops in **Polymer Culture Factory** (Tallinn) and workshop gatherings in **Aalto Media Factory's** then new Fab Lab (Helsinki), and contribution/presence at **Wastland Festival** (Kouvola) in 2012.

My childhood worries



https://docs.google.com/presentation/view?id=dgnwbbs4_64hthk3



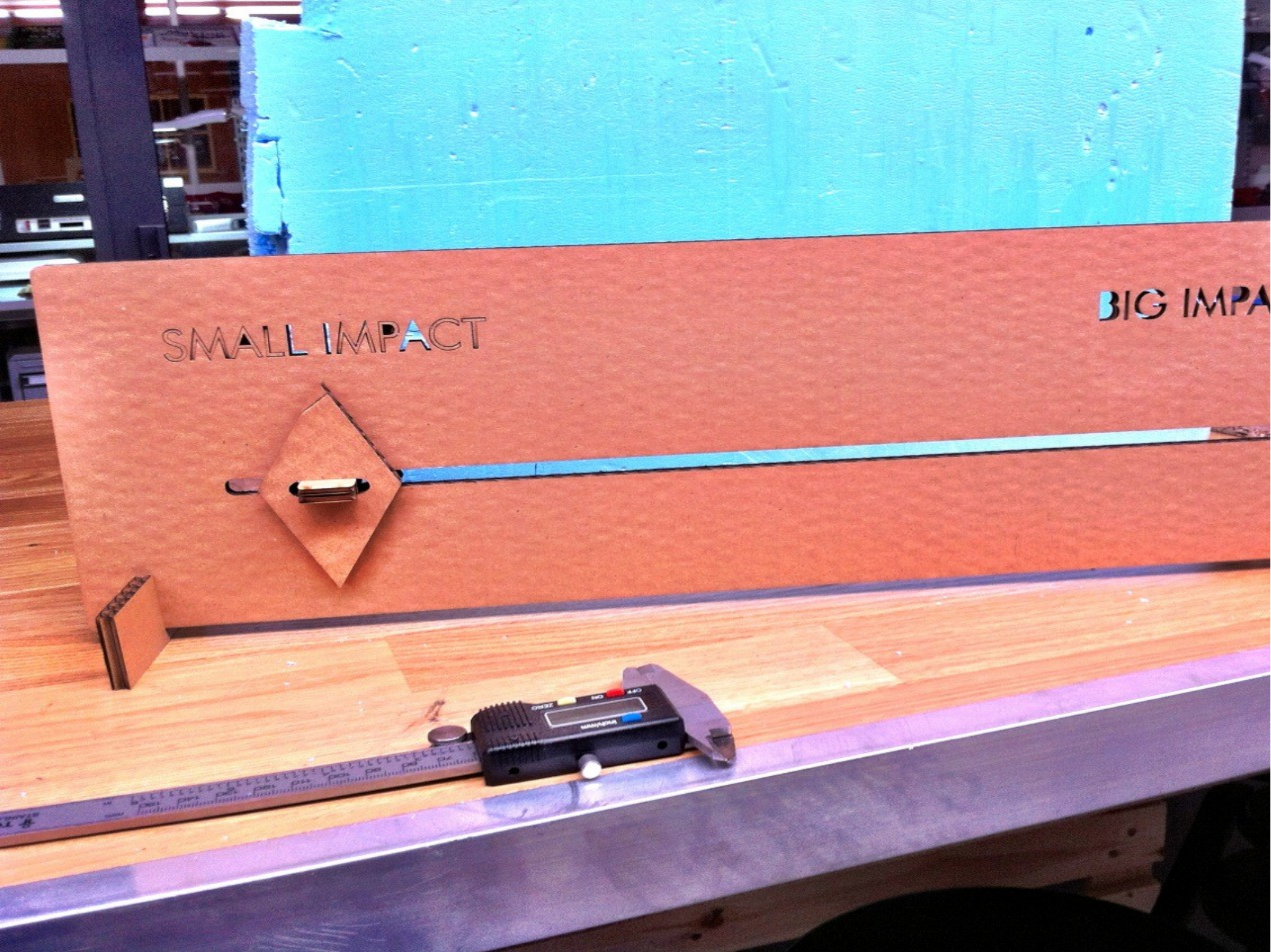






SMALL IMPACT

BIG IMPACT



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Trashlab 2013 - 'Repair cafe hybrid-model & 1st R.O.G.'

- 'Repair Cafe' (Netherlands) model proposed by **Päivi Raivio** in late 2012, facilitated together with **Andrew Gryf Paterson**, Ref: <https://repaircafe.org/en/>
- **Rotating around venues in Helsinki: Made in Kallio** (maker cooperative), **Helsinki Hacklab** (hackerspace), **Aalto Media Factory** (art-design university fablab), **Horisontti** (suburban fleamarket, sewing cafe), **Kulma** (co-working space), **Kierrätystehdas at Kaapelitehdas** (city eco-design fair event), **Arkadia International Bookshop** (2nd hand books, eventspace), **Helsinki City Library's Kaupunkiverstas** (library-service equipment/advice for makers), **Kääntöpyötä** (urban gardening centre), **Espookunsthalle** (artist-maker space).
- Supporting local maker & hacker spaces, spreading PR, raising awareness & word each month, practical development of Trashlab community, **fixing instead of upcycling. Monthly meet up to discuss and see others interested in waste and obsolescence issues.** Cindy Kohtala continues to follow the group, also larger group goes to Wasteland Festival (Kouvola)
- **Waste Management Expeditions:** Occasional visits to municipality-corporate waste-management (robotic-sensor-based sorting, water, landfill)
- First **Recycling Olympic Games** before Pixelache Helsinki 2013 Festival, May 2013, with Estonian & Finnish based participants, initiated by **Justin Tyler Tate & Jan Pankovets** (Polymer Culture Factory, Tallinn EE). Makerfaire Rome's Video document: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lmgM28AswE>



...inen lähti

17, 19, 21, 22, 40, 43, 45, 48, 41, 47, 51, 23, 24

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Trashlab 2014 - 'Working with the establishment..'

- Repair Cafe continues with facilitation by **Päivi Raivio**
- **Official collaboration with Helsinki City Library**, monthly repair-cafe at **Kaupunkiverstas** space
- Support for **'identified expert fixers'** within the artist-craft maker/hacker community of Trashlab, 100 euros per event as fee; but comes with expectation/demand burden, including **Charolette Remming, Justin Tyler Tate, Eero Yli-Vaakuri, Mikko Laajola, Sara Milazzo** and others..
- **Cindy Kohtala** continues to follow the group, and her case studies expand to other contexts and sustainable maker focus communities. Members of Trashlab get invited by Kohtala & prof. **Sampsa Hyysalo (Aalto Uni. ARTS Design)** and **Virve Meittinen (Helsinki Central Library project)**, to expert workshop to give feedback on new Central Library project's participatory maker-spaces due to open in 2018.
- **'Gold Diggers' workshop** proposed by **Mia Mäkelä** about precious metal extraction in recycling
 - in collaboration with Pixelache-Trashlab member **Albert Laine** at **Kierrätystehdas at Kaapelitehdas** (city eco-design fair) in Helsinki. 'Participatory performance' extracting gold pieces from defunkt computer hardware.
- **Eero Yli-Vaakuri's** Trashlab repair cafe video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC-Ppedte1A>

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Trashlab 2015 - 'Working with different materials & places..'

- Workshops continue with facilitation by **Mikko Laajola**
- **Rental collaboration with Sankariliiga** co-workshop 'garage', occasional **freestyle maker workshops**, using waste wood, etc.
- **Recycling Olympic Games returns**, led by **Justin Tyler Tate** (now Pixelache member) & **Mikko Laajola** with events in urban wasteland site in Vallila industrial district in Helsinki pre- and during **Pixelache Helsinki 2015 Festival**

"Recycling Olympic Games (ROG) is an **alternative sports event that is focused on creative waste reusing [sic] where international teams compete for the title of 'UpCycling Champion' and a trophy.**"

- **Also Recycling Olympic Games has own website:** <http://recyclingolympics.weebly.com/>
- **Justin Tyler Tate's summary Video:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJorF7_4nzk
- **ROG 2015 Show & Tell by participants Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrbkkcSUPVw>
- Repeats of Trashlab '**Gold Diggers**' workshop by **Albert Laine** as part '**Open-sourcing Festivals** project workshop series by **Mal au Pixel in Paris**; and during **Kehyviiko** (Development week) in Helsinki.

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Trashlab 2016 - 'Back with double action..'

- Workshops & repair cafe reboot with facilitation by **Justin Tyler Tate** (now based in Helsinki)
- **After a pause in activities, Trashlab reboots again with new energy**
- **Recycling Olympic Games 2016**, led by **Justin Tyler Tate & Mikko Laajola** takes place **first time in Tampere** in a summer July event based on the lake, and later in September pre- and during **Pixelache Helsinki 2016 Festival**.
- **Justin Tyler Tate's** summary ROG 2016 Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZmxlh7OCBs>
- **Cindy Kohtala** successfully defended her Doctor of Arts thesis in Aalto Uni. ARTS Design, with title **'Making Sustainability: How Fab Labs Address Environmental Issues'** (2016)
<https://people.aalto.fi/new/cindy.kohtala>
 - PDF: <https://shop.aalto.fi/media/attachments/f8dd3/Kohtala.pdf>
- **Karthikeya Archaya & Samir Bhowmik (now active member of Pixelache)**
 - also defend their Doctor of Arts thesis in Aalto Uni. ARTS Design & Media departments respectively referencing their 'Light is History' collaboration supported by Trashlab programme in 2012.